



National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, Director

USDA in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture - - - -providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture

717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.nass.usda.gov



Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

Released: Early March 2006

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 06 No. 05

IN THIS ISSUE:

Farm Labor
Cold Storage

Honey
Cold Storage

Agricultural Prices
Trout Production

Annual and Monthly Poultry

*The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Keystone_Ag_Digest/index.asp*

HONEY PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania honey production in 2005 (from producers with five or more hives) totaled 1,568,000 pounds, down 4 percent from 2004. There were an estimated 28,000 colonies statewide, down 2,000 from last year. The average yield was 56 pounds per colony. The average yield per colony was 54 pounds in 2004. Total stocks of honey, as of December 15, 2005, were 800,000 pounds, 1 percent less than the previous year.

Honey producers in Pennsylvania received an average price of 105 cents per pound for the 2005 crop. Total value of honey produced in 2005 is estimated at 1,646,000 dollars for Pennsylvania production. Pennsylvania ranks 22nd in the nation for honey production.

A sample of honey producers were contacted in December 2005 for information on number of colonies, honey production, honey stocks on hand for sale, and prices received for honey sold during 2004 and 2005.

Nationally, honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.4 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. The yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. Producer honey stocks were 62.4 million pounds on December 15, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Honey prices decreased during 2005 to 90.4 cents, down 15 percent from 106.9 cents in 2004. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

HIRED WORKERS UP 3 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 796,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF JANUARY 8-14, 2006¹

Item	NE II ²	U. S. ³
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers.....	24	616
Expected to be Employed.....		
150 Days or More	21	513
149 Days or Less.....	3	103
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired	38.1	38.2
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers	10.56	10.11
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	9.29	9.19
Field	9.89	9.15
Livestock.....	7.79	9.25

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. ² NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ³ Excludes AK.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, FEBRUARY 2006

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006 ¹	Feb 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn.....	Bu.	2.22	2.24	2.34	1.95	2.00	2.01
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.27	3.45	3.67
Oats	Bu.	⁵	2.29	2.09	1.67	1.73	1.78
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.31	2.47	2.55
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	5.42	5.88	5.68
Hay, Dry All	Ton	113.00	139.00	136.00	88.20	91.20	95.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	138.00	164.00	169.00	94.00	95.60	99.20
Dry Other	Ton	106.00	127.00	128.00	74.20	79.30	83.20
Apples, Fresh Use.....	Lb.	.220	.240	.210	.203	.260	.259
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.45	⁶	⁶	5.79	7.07	6.97
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	51.40	47.00	48.50	52.50	47.30	48.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	84.50	90.40	88.20	93.10	102.00	98.10
Calves	Cwt.	120.00	138.00	138.00	129.00	141.00	142.00
Barrows & Gilts.....	Cwt.	51.50	38.90	39.20	51.00	41.10	41.70
Sows.....	Cwt.	43.60	32.50	31.10	45.10	33.20	31.20
Eggs ³	Doz.	.360	.450	.280	.358	.438	.301
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	16.90	16.30	-	15.50	14.50	13.80
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	15.40	13.60	-	14.90	14.00	12.90
All	Cwt.	16.90	16.30	15.80	15.50	14.50	13.80
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	1,900.00	-	-	1,840.00	

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. ⁶ Monthly price for potatoes discontinued in 2005.

FEBRUARY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from January. The Crop Index is up 5 points (4.6 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 4 points (3.4 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for oranges, wheat, hay, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, milk, and eggs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, milk, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 1 point (0.9 percent) from February 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased 2 points

(1.7 percent) from last month and decreased 2 points (1.7 percent) from February 2005.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 31, 2005

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 4,980,000 bushels on January 31, 2006, compared to 5,100,000 bushels on January 31, 2005. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,674,000; Golden Delicious with 1,299,000 bushels, and Rome with 835,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 207,312,000 pounds on January 31, 2006, compared to 214,200,000 pounds on January 31, 2005. There were 1,000 pounds of pears in storage in Pennsylvania on January 31, 2006.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, JANUARY 2006

Variety	January 31, 2005					January 31, 2006				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	2	2	1,007	650	1,661	8	3	1,125	538	1,674
Stayman.....	22	1	46	0	69	8	5	37	0	50
Rome	31	62	630	357	1,080	5	38	432	360	835
Red Delicious.....	69	244	810	62	456	50	320	80	30	480
Golden Delicious...	17	120	374	513	1,024	78	213	553	455	1,299
Gala	5	11	1	3	20	3	50	4	0	57
McIntosh	2	3	2	11	18	6	3	1	10	57
Fuji	95	18	33	0	146	65	40	34	0	139
Other ²	54	85	300	187	626	32	78	184	88	389
Total	297	546	2,474	1,783	5,100	255	750	2,450	1,481	4,980

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified. n/p (not published) due to too few reports or insignificant volumes stored, these are included in the 'other' variety category.

TROUT PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania's 42 commercial trout growers sold 1.52 million pounds of trout, valued at \$4.81 million during 2005, ranking fourth nationally behind Idaho, North Carolina, and California. This production was up from the 1.37 million pounds valued at \$4.22 million sold in 2004.

Pennsylvania ranks first in the nation for the value of trout distributed for conservation and recreational purposes. With an estimated value of \$10.8 million, Pennsylvania accounts for 15.1 percent of the value of the nation's distributed trout. This includes trout released by state hatcheries, cooperative nurseries, and private fishing clubs. Distributed fish were released by 19 operations in Pennsylvania, but this count excludes cooperative nurseries under contract to state hatcheries. NASS-PA, a joint operation of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, compiles data on Pennsylvania food and fiber production as part of a nationwide effort.

Sales of trout 12 inches or longer by the state's growers totaled 1.32 million pounds, or 87 percent of the total production sold during the period. This was up 15 percent from a year ago. Averaging \$3.00 per pound, compared to \$2.90 last year and \$1.05 nationally, the 12 inch and larger trout were valued at \$3.96 million. Fee fishing and recreational sales accounted for 66 percent of the production, and sales to processors accounted for another 14 percent.

Sales of trout 6 to 12 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 490,000 fish, or 190,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was down 26,000 lbs. or 12 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$4.00 a pound, up \$.20/lb from last year, and \$2.82 nationally, sales of 6 to 12 inch trout were valued at \$760,000, with 92 percent of the volume sold to fee fishing and recreational establishments.

Sales of trout 1 to 6 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 290,000 fish, or 5,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was unchanged from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$300.00 per thousand fish, compared to \$355.00 last year and \$187.00 nationally, sales of 1 to 6 inch trout were valued at \$87 thousand.

Trout distributed for restoration or conservation purposes, primarily by the state fish commission and its cooperative nurseries, but also by private fishing clubs, included 280,000 fish 12" or longer, and 5.5 million 6-12" fish, compared to 5.23 million 6-12" fish a year ago.

Total losses of all Pennsylvania trout intended for sale were 443,000 fish during 2005, with 40 percent being lost to predators, 31 percent to drought, and 29% to various other causes such as equipment malfunctions.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed commercial trout growers in Pennsylvania and 19 other states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan,

Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

For the 20 selected states, the total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers during 2005 totaled \$74.2 million, an increase of 4.0 percent from 2004. Nationally, sales of fish totaled \$69.1 million for 2005, while egg sales totaled \$5.14 million. The state of Idaho accounted for 51 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of trout 12 inches and longer sold during 2005 totaled 55.5 million fish, up 12 percent from the previous year. The value of sales of trout 12 inches and longer for the 2005 marketing year was 62.6 million dollars, up 5 percent from 2004. Based on dollar value, 67 percent were sold to processors and 19 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of 6-12 inch trout sold during 2005 totaled 4.79 million fish, a decrease of 13 percent from 2004. The average price per pound was \$2.82 during 2005, up 13 cents from the 2004 price. The total value of sales was 5.18 million dollars during 2005, down 11 percent from the previous year. The major sales outlet for 6-12 inch trout was to fee and recreational establishments with 51 percent of the total sales, followed by government agencies with 20 percent, and sales direct to consumers at 8 percent.

The number of 1-6 inch trout sold during 2005 totaled 7.06 million, a 27 percent increase from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$187.00 during 2005, a \$13 increase from 2004. The total value of sales was 1.32 million dollars, up 37 percent from last year's total.

Trout egg sales in 2005 totaled 307 million eggs, up 6 percent from the 290 million eggs sold during the previous year. The average value per 1,000 eggs during 2005 was \$16.70, unchanged from 2004. The total value of trout egg sales during 2005 was 5.14 million dollars, an increase of 6 percent from the 4.83 million dollars in egg sales during the previous year.

Trout distributed in the U.S. for restoration, conservation, and recreation purposes, primarily by state and federal hatcheries, included 6.34 million 12 inch or longer fish, 52.0 million 6-12 inch fish, and 52.6 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 74.3 million dollars, up 19 percent from 2004.

Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 32.1 million fish during 2005, with 51 percent being lost to disease, 19 percent lost drought, and 21 percent to other causes. Losses to trout raised for distribution were primarily due to disease (62 percent) and predators (28 percent).

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION & CHICKEN INVENTORY, PENNSYLVANIA & US, 2004-2005 ¹

Production & Inventory	Pennsylvania			United States		
	2004	2005	2005/04	2004	2005	2005/04
			Percent			Percent
Egg Production (Million)	6,585	6,608	100	89,091	89,960	101
Average Number of Layers (000).....	23,893	23,785	100	341,956	343,501	100
Rate of Lay/Layer	276	278	101	261	262	100
December 1 Inventory:						
Hens & Pullets of Laying Age (000)	23,290	24,305	104	343,922	347,917	101
Total Pullets (000)	4,532	4,511	100	101,429	96,610	95
Other Chickens (000)	110	110	100	8,248	8,289	100
Total (000).....	27,932	28,926	104	453,599	452,816	100

¹ For egg production, marketing year ends November 30.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 2005	Dec 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2005	Dec 2005	Jan 2006
Layers.....	Thous.	24,484	24,444	24,255	347,864	348,545	349,253
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,336	2,320	2,354	2,192	2,235	2,211
Eggs Produced.....	Million	572	567	571	7,626	7,791	7,721
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	5,818	4,889	4,231	37,936	36,224	35,422
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	14,168	14,723	13,942	796,026	807,848	804,073
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	21,887	23,673	24,375

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION

Annual egg production in Pennsylvania for the year ending November 30, 2005 was 6.61 billion eggs, up slightly from the 6.59 billion produced in 2004. There was an average of 23.8 million layers in the state during the 12-month period, down less than 1 percent from the 23.9 million the previous year. Average annual production per layer was 278 eggs, up from 276 eggs in 2004.

All chicken inventory (excluding commercial broilers) as of December 1, 2005 totaled 28.9 million, up 4 percent from the 27.9 million one year earlier. Pennsylvania ranked 4th in the nation in chicken inventory on December 1, 2005. There were a total of 24.3 million layers in Pennsylvania flocks as of December 1, 2005 and the state ranked 4th behind Iowa, Ohio, and Indiana, with 50.0, 28.8, and 24.7 million. There were 4.5 million pullets not of laying age in Pennsylvania flocks as of December 1, 2005. This was unchanged from the previous year. There were also 110,000 other chickens in Pennsylvania flocks, unchanged from 2004. The average value per bird on hand December 1, 2005 was \$1.90. The total value of all flocks in Pennsylvania on December 1, 2005 was 55.0 million dollars, up 4 percent from the 53.1 million dollars in 2004.

Nationally, egg production for the year ending November 30, 2005 totaled a record high 90.0 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year. Layer numbers averaged 344 million, up slightly from 2004. The average annual production per layer on hand in 2005 was 262 eggs, up slightly from the 2004 average of 261. The inventory of all chickens (excluding commercial broilers) in the United States totaled 453 million on December 1, 2005, down slightly from last year. The average value of chickens in the nation's flocks on December 1 was \$2.50, up 2 cents from 2004. The total value of the nation's flocks was estimated at 1.13 billion dollars, up slightly from one year ago.

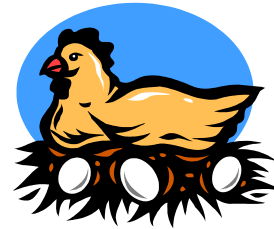
JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during January 2006 totaled 571 million eggs, down slightly from the 572 million eggs produced in January 2005. The total number of layers averaged 24.3 million during January, down 1 percent from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,354 eggs during the month, an increase of 18 eggs from January 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2006 totaled 4.23 million, down 27 percent from the 5.82 million hatched the previous January. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 13.9 million during January 2006, down 2 percent from the 14.2 million hatched during the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.72 billion during January 2006, up 1 percent from last year's total during January. The total number of layers during January averaged 349 million, up slightly from the number of layers during the same month last year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,211 eggs, up 19 eggs from the same month last year.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during January totaled 35.4 million, down 7 percent from January 2005. Broiler-type hatch totaled 804 million, up 1 percent from last year at this time. There were 24.4 million turkey poults placed in the United States during January 2006, up 11 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United States
Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Pennsylvania Statistical Office
2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

PRST STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38